supply of gas to 3 MW Ramgarh Gas Thermal Power Project likely to be held in April-May, 1992 ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) Rajasthan State Electricity Board have not signed the Gas Supply Contract, because of which consequential activities such as laying of gas pipelines, etc., have not been undertaken.

Hiring of Lawyers

1017. SHRI N. E. BALARAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details relating to hiring of lawyers for the legal case being fought by M/s Gas Authority of India Limited against the Consortium led by M/s Spie Capag in France; and

(b) what are the details of the contract which has been entered into by M/s Gas Authority of India Limited with the lawyers ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) In May, 1990, Gas Authority of India Ltd. in consultation with the Indian Embassy at Paris, engaged M/s. Clifford Chance an International Law firm to contest the case against the Consortium led by M/s. Spie Capag in France.

Awarding of Supply Order to Engineers India Ltd.

1018. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) What are the jobs undertaken by the Engineers India Limited;

(b) whether it is a fact that heavy purchase of supply has been awarded to this company in Rourkela modernisation project even though it does not produce a single nut or pin;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Engineers India Limited would also work as a middle supplying agent; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for not awarding the job to a manufacturing company or trading company ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) The Engineers India Limited (EIL) provides engineering consultancy services and project management services in respect of petroleum, chemicals, petrochemicals, ocean engineering and other related industrial projects etc.

(b) According to the EIL, they have not been awarded any work in Rourkela modernisation project.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

LPG Connections on the Recommendations of Members of Parliament

1019. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that LPG (domestic) connections sanctioned on M.Ps. recommendations are handed over by oil companies to some other persons who claim to be personal Assistants of some other M.Ps.;

(b) whether Government have received complaints that LPG (domestic) connections sanctioned on the recommendations of M.Ps. in the 1st week of December, 1991 vide letter No. 79/BPC dated 3-12-92 and other similar gas connections sanctioned on M.Ps. recommendations and despatched on 16-12-91 vide No. 4248—4253 were handed over to some unauthorised persons;

(c) whether Government are aware that a gang is operating with the connivance of officers of oil companies, especially in the BPC, to sell these connections in black market;

(d) whether Government propose to hold an enquiry in this regard; if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (e) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) have reportedd that in April, 1992 a complaint was received that an allottee had not reported that in April, 1992 a complaint was looked into and it was found that some allotment letters had been handed over to a person identifying himself as a Personal Assistant of a Member of Parliament. An investigation has been carried out by BPCL and according to BPCL, *prima facie* no malafied intentions have been established. However, BPCL has decided that all priority letters for LPG connections will be despatched by Registered post only.

Flaring of Natural Gas

1020. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount and percentage of natural gas that flared up during January—March, 1991 and 1992 and the estimated loss incurred thereby ; and

(b) what specific steps were taken during 1991 and 1992 for increased utilisation of natural gas available from different oil fields, refineries and projects ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Approximately 1300 (27.5%) and 900 (19%) MMSCM of gas, valued at Rs. 170 crores and Rs. 124 crores in 1991 and 1992 respectively, at the selling prices current at the relevint time.

(b) ONGC's Gas Flaring Reduction Project is being implemented in the Western Offshore. Projects for reducing flaring of gas in Gujarat and Assam are also being implemented.

L. P. G. Dealers in Bombay

1021. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the names and address of L.P.G. dealers in Bombay city ;

(b) the number of L. P. G. customers allotted to each of these dealers ;

(c) what is the minimum time taken to provide a refill to a customer in the last twelve months ;

(d) what is the maximum time taken to provide a refill to a customer in the last twelve months ;

(e) what steps are being taken to provide a L. P. G. Refill to a customer within three hours of placing an order ;

(f) what steps are being taken to prevent malpractices in delivery of L. P. G. refills in Bombay ;

(g) what steps ire being taken to have equal number of customers with each L. P. G. dealer ; and

(h) the localities where L. P. G. dealerships are to be opened in Bombay in near future ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) (a) As on 1-1-1992 there were 131 LPG distributorships in Bombay.

(b) and (g) The maximum number of gas connections fixed for an LPG Agency except to Co-operative Societies is determined on the basis of refill sales in various parts of the country including Bombay, where it is fixed at 8000 refill sale per month.

(c) to (f) The distributors are under instructions from he LPG marketing oil companies to supply refills promptly on demand on a first come first serve basis. Regular and surprise inspections are carried out by the field staff of oil companies.